No.186

BLACK FLAG

30p

FOR ANARCHIST RESISTANCE

14-11-88

THEY SHOOT KIDS DONT THEY

Riots erupted in Athens when anarchists defended themselves against a police assault. A 'shoot-to-kill' policy has been exposed. And a convicted murderer walks free. Fifteen year old Mihalis Kaltezas, an anarchist comrade, was murdered by Athanasios Melistas, a cop, and in September Melistas was sent to trial. Several eye witnesses stated in court that they saw Melistas kneel down, aim and fire at Kaltezas in cold blood, without any warning. It was a clear case of 'shoot to kill'. A forensics expert also stated that the trajectory of the bullet clearly showed that Melistas was aiming for the head, not the torso or the extremities. Other evidence showed that Melistas had been specially trained in fire-arms use and therefore when firing could not have made a mistake. The court found Melistas guilty. A victory indeed, but short-lived. Next came the sentencing. He was given a total of 2 years for Murder and 6 months for illegal use of a gun. Melistas then appealed and the court decided to suspend the sentence until the appeal had been heard!

Not only is Melistas now free but he is still working for the Police!

The day after the trial, when all this was known, the anarchist groups in Athens organised a demonstration at the street corner where Mihalis Kaltezas was murdered. Many non-anarchists joined the demonstration and flowers were placed at the spot where Mihalis had fallen. But then, at about 7.30pm, the police intervened. Not content with their colleague being set free for a murder he was found guilty of, they decided to harass the friends of the victim of the murder in their silent vigil. The anarchist demonstrators refused to take this lying down and counter-attacked the police forces. Five near-by banks were molotoved. Police reinforcements were brought in. The anarchists then set up barricades using cars, tables and seats from the nearby Polytechnic. As the police began to use tear gas the anarchists occupied the Polytechnic building and started to throw out more molotovs as well as acid from the school's laboratories.

The police lay siege to the school, but were unable to gain entry. Over 150 anarchists ended up occupying the building overnight. While this was going on more comrades were mobilised and fighting took place in the streets in Exarchia Square nearby.

With the stand-off and the anarchists firmly in control of the polytechnic building the dean of the polytechnic offered to intervene. This resulted in Menios Koutsoyorgas, the Vice-President of the Government, being forced to order the Police to withdraw from the area surrounding the Polytechnic. Special arrangements were made for the anarchists to be safely escorted from the building by Polytechnic staff. Despite this the police made one more attempt to make arrests and when the anarchists had managed to get within a few blocks away from the Polytechnic the police attacked with tear gas. Fortunately they didn't manage to hurt anyone or make any arrests.

3-12-85

Athens, Greece

POLICE MURDERERS SHOOT 15YR OLD BOY DEAD

100,000 people marched through Athens on Sunday, November 17th, to commemorate the occupation (by students) of the Polytechnic University buildings in November 1973, which lead to the collapse of the Greek dictatorship.

Many people were involved in the march including Anarchists. There was a strong police presence too but this didn't stop some demonstrators (mostly Anarchists) from attacking a South African Airlines building and the Athens Hilton Hotel en route.

After the demonstration hundreds of police in cars and vans surrounded Exarchia Square (a meeting place for Athen's Anarchists) looking for suspects. The police were very brutal and used a great deal of force against people in the area -- including passers by -- during their search. The situation grew tense and just after midnight the crowd responded to the police's brutality by throwing molotovs (petrol bombs) at a police van. The police got out of their van and started shooting pistols at the escaping crowd. A 15 year old Anarchist, Mihalis Kaltezas, was murdered in cold blood, shot in the back of the head by policeman Athanasios Melistas.

When the news spread two hundred people immediately decided to occupy the Athens Polytechnic -- Chemistry building in protest at the boy's murder. This building has been occupied before, in May 1985 by Anarchists protesting at police harassment.

The police quickly surrounded the

Fifteen year old Anarchist Mikilas Kalteras lies dead.

On the following Monday, September 26th, the Government announced that it had ordered the Public Prosecutor to appeal against the court's ruling to suspend the sentence. This was a climbdown, although there still remained the fact that Melistas had been sentenced in the first place with a minimal term bearing no relation to the crime itself. On that evening another demonstration was organised - this time by the National Union of Students (controlled by the Communist Party). The demonstration was attended by anarchists as well as communists and other leftists. A march began from the Polytechnic to the Parliament building.

As the march approached the Parliament building police, once again, decided to attack using tear gas. Most of the students fled, leaving the anarchists to fight alone. The anarchists fought back using molotovs until they were able to get to their own area, Exarchia Square, where they spread out, attacking the cops on different fronts. Eventually they managed to disperse, effecting few arrests.

continued on page 3

SOUTH AFRICAN TAKEOVER OF BRITISH COAL

A confidential report indicates that with the pending privatisation of the British coal industry a large part of that industry, at least, will be made available to certain multinationals, including South African mining conglomerates that are major supporters of the Apartheid business.

Furthermore the report shows that massive cut-backs will be required in the industry, leading to more enforced redundancies. There will be a major switch to non-deep mined production where possible. The report concludes that it would be better for the industry if it were sold to two or three firms, but a much greater break-up of the industry is not discounted should this prove impossible.

It should be noted, though, that all this comes at a time when the war over job flexibility is intensifying. The battle lines have been drawn at the Margam pit in South Wales, which British Coal wants to develop as a model for continuous 24 hour production. British Coal have already stated that the scab union, the UDM, is invited to unionise the workers in Margam. In response the local NUM released a statement saying that if necessary '*there will be another Wapping*' if the UDM tries and steps in.

British Coal is playing its cards close to its chest on the matter; it is hoping that the NUM will be forced to accept the 24 hour shift production rather than let the UDM in. However if the NUM turn the deal down British Coal have already lined up a private developer to take over the pit. Ryans International, a private energy company based in Cardiff, have reportedly been trying to recruit staff for Margam.

In the meantime British Coal have offered a deal with the NUM for the next three and a half years only. Margam will be theirs providing they accept the flexible working conditions. If they don't accept it then the pit will be thrown open to the highest bidder. If the pit is sold or leased to Ryans International then the UDM may be invited to organise the workforce. This is the only way that the UDM can get into Margam as no miners in South Wales will join them.

The UDM, of course, have already signed a national agreement with British Coal over flexible working and initially this will bring in a 6 day working week in a new mine, Asfordby, in Leicestershire. Under the terms of the agreement no variation can be made for the next 10 years.

More recently, too, the Energy Secretary, Cecil Parkinson, announced that the privatisation of British Coal (expected in 1991 or 1992) will mean that the mines will be 'handed back' to the British public and that miners will have a chance to 'own' a part of the mine they work in. While the Tories hope that they can turn every little socialist into a share-owning capitalist, the Labour Party wants to retain the system whereby workers own virtually nothing and all essential services are owned by the State. Both systems deprive workers of what is rightfully theirs.

Under nationalisation workers had no say or control in their own industry; under privatisation the same applies but productivity is tied more closely to income. Neither system allows for industry to be controlled by those who produce.

But with privatisation not only will there be more cut-backs and changes in working conditions, there will much greater freedom, too, for management to respond to changes in the international market. And it is the threat from the international market that has partially influenced the Government to sell the British coal industry to the international marketeers. The South African firms are the market leaders and the Government hopes that they can redevelop the British coal industry on a much more competitive basis. For the British miner in real terms this will mean even higher productivity rates, a lowering in safety standards, lower wages and, ultimately, de-unionisation.

For the South African firms it will mean greater security. They are increasingly anxious to take on new business outside the Apartheid regime, whose future is precarious. Getting a foothold in the British markets is a first step. Eventually other British and Western industry will be sought. If, and when, the Apartheid regime comes crashing down then these firms need to have other solid investments elsewhere to fall back on. This is one of the reasons why De Beers and Anglo American have put in a bid for Consgold.

If the South African firms are successful in their bids then there will come a time in the future when the Government will say: disrupt South African businesses and you will disrupt the British economy, including the British coal industry.

The idea of the British coal industry being linked directly to the South African economy must amuse the Tories no end. This would be Thatcher's ultimate revenge. But all this, thankfully, is a long way off yet, leaving us with time to organise.

For more information see page 6

BLACK FLAG—BLACK CROSS
BM HURRICANE, LONDON WC1N 3XX
Published, typeset and layout by BLACK FLAG COLLECTIVE
Printed by Aldgate Press E1

SUBSCRIPTION RATES:
Inland: 12 issues £6, 6 issues £3.
Europe: (except Finland - sent 1st Class): 12 issues £10, 6 issues £5.
Rest of World: Surface - 12 issues £10, 6 issues £5; Airmail - 12 issues £15, 6 issues £7.50.
Prisoners free on request; non-earners free on receipt of sae's or postage.
Giro account no. Black Flag 58 552 4009.

For a social system based on mutual aid and voluntary co-operation - against State control and all forms of government and economic repression. To establish a share in the general prosperity for all - the breaking down of racial, religious, national and sex barriers - and to fight for the life of one world.

BLACK FLAG THREAT TO PRISON

A prisoner from Parkhurst has informed us that the last issue of *Black Flag* was banned from that prison as it contained an article written by inmate Martin Foran about the suspicious death in custody of an old man, Mr. Cross, who was deprived of much needed oxygen by prison officials. Accompanying the article was a letter from another Parkhurst prisoner who named two screws—Mr. Stacking and Mr. Berryman—who are forcing drugs onto Martin.

The latest communication we have received comes from a fellow inmate of Martin's. He writes: *I received a visit from the Assistant Governor (who) informed me that he was suppressing this months' issue (of)* Black Flag *on the grounds it offended...Good Order and Discipline. He further quoted Standing Order SB.28 which states.... 'The Governor has discretion to disallow correspondence with a person or organisation if he has reason to believe that the person or organisation concerned is planning or engaged in activities which present a serious threat to the security or good order of the establishment or other prison departments...'*

Further enquiries revealed that Black Flag *contained two letters from Mr. Martin Foran, plus a letter from an unsigned prisoner (—the) said three letters apparantly imputing that all was not well in respect of a recent death in Parkhurst (Prison) Hospital. The Assistant Governor informed me that the letters published in your readers' columns in point of fact were 'liable' and revealed prison warders identities that were involved. He did not confide if a prosecution would take place. However I can disclose that Mr. Foran has not been brought into the punitive unit, despite the allegations of 'liable' lodged against his name.*

The prisoner adds that he was eventually allowed to see the 'offending' issue of *Black Flag* but with the article/letters cut out.

The closed world of a prison devalues all human life and a sick old man becomes a 'liability' not worth consideration, while those inmates who reject intimidation in defence anothers' life are in turn threatened with libelousness. If the authorities at Parkhurst have anything to hide, then it is they who are 'liable'.

HOME NEWS

TRAINING IN A VACUUM

When the TUC voted, quite rightly, to boycott the Government's new Employment Training (ET) scheme they failed to come up with any concrete alternative. Gone are the days when new recruits were placed on apprenticeship schemes (although some of these schemes still survive) on reduced, but not slave-labour, wages. Many of those schemes were jointly controlled by the unions and were widely recognised as providing proper training and skills that resulted in qualifications that could be put to use anywhere in the country. But with the current high unemployment and the determination of the free marketeers to keep wages low these apprenticeship schemes were phased out.

The unions have all along made the mistake of allowing government intervention. They went along with ET's predecessors, despite all the warning signs. Now it is too late. They abrogated their responsibilities and they have no solutions to offer at all. The government now has the monopoly on training schemes and it will take a long time, if there is the will, for the unions to regain the initiative. The solution is patently clear. The government's monopoly must be broken. If companies want trained workers then they should only be allowed to get them if they offer the right conditions. If companies refuse to agree to these terms then the unions will have to take counter measures. At some point an employer will be forced to negotiate if they are to get their recruits.

There is nothing new about any of this of course. But today, the idea of unions going on the offensive in the current climate of retreat, seems unthinkable. Some people used to despise the system operated by the print unions whereby to get a job an applicant must already have union approval. But this was to safeguard the industry, to ensure that the employers didn't take on casual or untrained labour at low rates. The print unions forced the employers to co-operate in jointly run union-management training schemes. And it is these sort of schemes that should be applied to all industries.

It is now up to the unions to reverse the situation. They must take control of the training programmes, set the agenda, and dictate the terms. It's in no ones interest that employees are poorly trained. The unions have a responsibility to get involved, and not stand to one side. But to do this they will have to come up with alternative plans – industry by industry – bypassing the government machinery and dealing direct with the employers.

ET SENT HOME

The Government's launch of the new Employment Training Scheme was sabotaged at local level in different parts of the country, according to a report by *Counter Information*.
On September 1st ET was launched via seven regional conferences, all linked by video, to which local bosses were invited. But things didn't go all that smoothly. Disruptions to these conferences took place in Edinburgh, Manchester, Newcastle, Liverpool, London and Cardiff.

In Edinburgh the launch took place at the Crest Hotel. Almost immediately the proceedings began local demonstrators set about disrupting the conference. The result was half an hour of chaos, instead of the plush event as envisaged by the organisers. In Manchester the launch was to take place in the Polytechnic lecture hall. But activists chained and padlocked the entrance, delaying the proceedings by an hour and a half. The video-link up was therefore cancelled. The activists then occupied the lecture hall when the proceedings finally got underway, and took over the microphones.

EXETER SKETCH

The following account of the march against fascism in Exeter on September 17th was sent in by a correspondent in Devon.

At two pm the marchers assembled, about 2000 in all, and after grumbling at the organisers who were trying to get us into ranks of four, off we set. The chanting began: 'Fascists off the streets', 'Troops out of Ireland' and 'I-I-IRA'. The cops looked uninterested as they were obviously there to control us not to protect us. We passed the prison and there were a few muted protests about prisons but there was nothing as original as 'Troops out of everwhere' in the chanting. The march meandered for miles around the Exeter streets. The chanting empahasis moved from anti-fascism to pro-Republicanism and at one point I was caught between Anti-Imperialist Action and Labour Party Young Socialists. The AIA were using a megaphone to slag off the Labour Government of Wilson who put the troops into Ireland and the Labour leadership of today. The YS were appealing for non-sectarianism. I was walking with an SWP friend who was being slagged off by an Irish Republican woman whom, I presume, was annoyed about the SWP's 'critical' rather than full support for the IRA. 'Racist!' she shouted at him and went off further into the march. The march must be one for the Guinness Book of Records as it was miles away from the Orange march opposition. I overheard a bystander comment on the colourful procession before him with 'But they're all drop-outs really'.

When we arrived back at our starting point a rumour went around that fascists were at St Davids train station. So off ran a load of people with the cops trailing after them looking for 'skins' – all reminiscent of mods and rockers in the '60's.

While they were gone, leaving only a few of us remaining, I had to go to the shops. On the way I was drawn aside by a group of four Irishmen who were asking me what kind of person I was. I started to explain that I was an anarchist and that I didn't support the Republican cause, thinking they were Republicans who were with the march. How wrong I was – they turned out to be Loyalists who'd strayed away from the Orange Order of Great Britain and Northern Ireland. They looked mean and angry and demanded to know why I was on a pro-IRA march. I began to explain that personally I was there to oppose the fascist movement and would have gone into the subject further but for the fact that one of them, out of the blue, upped and nutted me. The others, not wanting the cops to see, pulled their mad comrade away, who was shouting 'Get out of my country you Fenian bastard!' (Irony would be an understatement: an Irishman in England telling a self-confessed non-Republican and, clearly, a Devonian, to get out of Exeter – Eds.).
Another said 'We've got nothing against the socialists!' and they went – the pigs never noticed.

The rest of the mob returned with the pigs chasing them in an angry mood. No fascists were located and the pigs made a few arrests. One of the Plymouth contingent was arrested so we waited for him to be bailed but the pigs said he'd be kept over the weekend, so we were forced to return home without him.
Nothing was achieved except on exercise in public control by the pigs – the days of marches are over!

G.S.

ANARCHO-QUIZ

1. The present Government should have had burial serrvices recited over them, individually or collectively, long since but which is the exception to the rule?
2. During the civil war in Argentine, between factions labelled 'coloured' and 'white' (referring to flags, without political or racial significance), on which side did the explorer Cunningham Grahame say he was when challenged by an unknown armed patrol?
3. The association of politics and rugby always makes one think of South Africa, but where does it have anything to do with anarchism?
4. Did armed trotskyists ever march on a London police station?
5. The black flag is a symbol of international anarchism, but of what else?

Answers page 8

TRICIA JENNINGS VICTORY

Tricia Jennings, the woman who was sacked by the Edinburgh branch of Burtons for being pregnant, has won her case at an Industrial Tribunal. This is one in the eye for Burtons. The Tribunal found Burtons guilty of sex-discrimination and furthermore awarded Tricia £1,500 in compensation – a measly sum for all the aggravation she has been caused. Industrial legislation does not compel a company to reinstate an employee where the court has ruled against them, only for compensation. Nevertheless this is a clear victory for Tricia and for her many supporters around the country who, over a period of months, picketed Burtons branches in solidarity.

The Tricia Jennings case is, of course, only the tip of the iceberg. There are thousands of other, similar, cases, especially in non-unionised (as well as unionised) firms. Perhaps the Burtons defeat will deter other companies from acting so blatantly, or at least serve as an important precedent. Discrimination at work against pregnant women is something that needs far greater concern, and any such case should be fought.

Tricia Jennings celebrates outside Burtons in Edinburgh

GREECE

continued from page 1

Over the three days of police attacks, occupations, rioting and demonstrations, the press inevitably vilified the anarchists. The newspapers accused the anarchists of 'humiliating' the State, of 'menacing' democracy and of causing extensive damage. At the same time all the political parties condemned the anarchists and called for counter-measures. Strangely enough the only party that didn't was the Communists, who denounced the police brutality, and accused the police of being the perpetrators of the vandalism and looting. There were clearly agent provocateurs around as later it was reported that a half-naked man had been arrested by citizens for breaking shop windows; he was then turned over to the police and it transpired that the man was a cop who was the official bodyguard of the Secretary of Public Order!

Melistas' act was one of cold blooded murder of a 15 year old student whose only crime was to attend a demonstration. The Greek authorities have witnessed the anger of the anarchist community in Athens. Let them witness the anger of the anarchist community worldwide!

Our comrades in Greece hope for widespread solidarity, just as they have given solidarity in the past and will continue to do so in the future. We urge supporters to take appropriate action. It should also be remembered that November 17th is the anniversary of the deaths of two other anarchist comrades: Iakovos Koumis and Stamatina Kamellopoulou were both beaten to death by police on that day in 1980.

While the shoot-to-kill policy of the British army is guaranteed to gain worldwide attention in the international media, the shoot-to-kill practice of the Greek police against an unarmed youth goes unheard. There is no Republican bandwagon to jump on here: just a simple case of justice.

SOURCE: AP/Anarchist Black Cross, Greece.

NEWS FROM GREECE

In December of this year the trial will take place of 37 comrades who took solidarity action on November 17th, 1985 in the aftermath of the murder of 15 year old Mihalis Kaltezas by a cop. The 37 are accused of taking part in the occupation of the Chemistry School building of Athens University and using explosives, causing damage to public property, etc.

On October 7th Katerina Iatropolou, an anarchist lawyer, faced trial on charges of aiding and abetting the escape of two prisoners, Yanis Petropoulos and Haris Teberekidis, who were active in the prison movement. Katerina herself was very active in the resistance against the military regime of 1967-74 and has remained active in the prison movement since. She is also charged with possession of drugs (which were planted on her by the police at the time of her arrest). The Black Cross in Athens organised a demonstration outside the court where the trial was heard. As we go to press we have no news yet of the result of the trial.

On November 9th twelve comrades are due to be tried in Athens accused of using explosives and causing damage during a anti-nuclear demonstration that took place in May, 1936, in the wake of the Chernobyl disaster. A 13th comrade, Yanis Balis, will be tried seperately in Lamia: he is accused of attempting to kill a cop despite flimsy evidence.

Mihalis Kaltezas (left) and the cop who murdered him.

PRISON NEWS

Klearhos Smyrmeos, Hristoforos Marimos and Gerasimos Boukouvalas are still in prison, arrested after the police fracas when our comrade Mihalis Prekas was killed. The former two are accused of forming a 'terrorist organisation' with Prekas, while Bououvalas is accused are being in association with them. All three can be contacted at:

Dikastiki Fylaki Korydallou,
Korydallos-Piraeus,
Greece.

Also still in prison is Evaghelia Voyatzi, a friend of Prekas. Ostensibly she is accused of forging a driving licence, although in reality she is incarcerated because of her friendship to Prekas. Also locked up inside with her is her 4 year old boy (by Prekas), Aris.

Wobblies See Green

In West Germany the environmental organisation Greenpeace is cooperating with the Government in providing community service placement for conscripts who wish to dodge military service. A sign of Greenpeace's increasing respectability, perhaps, but at least for young people a form of community service that is not quite so ideologically unsound – providing, of course, that these recruits are not working on slave labour pay but are receiving subsidies from the state. Across the Atlantic in Seattle, however, Greenpeace workers are on strike, their union being the IWW ('wobblies').

The Seattle dispute began in June when management tried to force new productivity targets on their telemarketing (fundraisers) staff. High powered sales techniques, with pay geared to targets, were to be introduced. Also management insisted that the telemarketing staff be electronically monitored on their performance. The workers said no to all this. Half of them resigned in protest and the remaining twelve stayed on to fight. Seven of these decided to unionise and joined the IWW. On hearing this Greenpeace management in Washington DC and Boston decided to intervene, which resulted in three IWW members being dismissed and others being forcibly placed on part-time. The remaining telemarketing staff then sent out calls for solidarity to other Greenpeace workers in other offices. This was too much for Greenpeace management, who promptly sacked all of them and took on scabs.

The IWW then organised the picketing of the Seattle office; demonstrations then followed as well as fund-raising events for the sacked workers. The current situation is basically unchanged.

No doubt it must be a shock for Greenpeace supporters to find that their organisation, whose direct action record on environmental matters is considered by many to be second to none, has to resort to these sort of tactics. At the same time 'alternative' campaign organisations, as with co-operatives, are a relatively soft target, deserved or not, for promoting a union, deperate to expand, like the IWW. Many co-operatives are based on a system of self-exploitation anyway – which can never be defended but co-op members can hardly say they entered the business in ignorance. With Greenpeace the situation is different in that it is hardly a co-op but organised with a typical hierarchical management structure. Yet being a campaign type organisation they attract the sort of workers who tend to join co-operatives.

GREENPEACE
ENVIRONMENTAL TRUST

But Greenpeace want it both ways: they want to conduct themselves as a typical business and, at the same time, retain the support of the politically radical. They can't hope to achieve this if their industrial relations is in disarray. Likewise the Greenpeace workers were fortunate to find a union (the IWW) which is taking their case seriously, but the IWW itself will get nowhere fast if it continues with this trend of projecting itself as a union of co-operatives – something it never was.

Co-operative workers are entitled to, and should get, unionisation like anyone else, but they will be given more industrial clout if they are linked not just with other cooperative workers – which is not an industry in itself but a form of organisation – but with workers involved in the same sort of work in more mainstream forms of organisation. Print workers in a small co-op need the solidarity of print workers generally not with, for example, food distribution workers in another co-op. Greenpeace management may well decide to review their internal structures and working practices if other Greenpeace workers took solidarity action and also if those who funded the organisation collaborated to pressurise management to change. The IWW are hoping this will happen and it is important that the Seattle dispute gets wider publicity.

THE OTHER FACE OF 'National Liberation'

We have been sent, anonymously, internal documents relating to the World Anti-Communist League, Western Goals UK and a new youth wing of Western Goals, summarising their current concerns in the international arena. The documents show that these organisations are actively engaged in funding and supporting terrorism in strategic zones all over the world.

One of the documents is an internal WACL report from one of its committees and was prepared specially for the 21st WACL Conference held in August in Geneva. It is entitled 'Anti-Communist Resistance Movements'. It was written by Major General (retired) John K Singlaub and Andrew Smith (a former member of the banned Federation of Young Conservatives – FCS and a director of Western Goals UK).

WACL
WORLD ANTI-COMMUNIST LEAGUE
LIGUE MONDIALE ANTI-COMMUNISTE
21st WACL CONFERENCE
GENÈVE — 27-29 AOÛT 1988

The report boasts that WACL is involved in supporting 'freedom fighters' in various parts of globe. Particular importance is given to the need to support the Apartheid regime in South Africa and the threat posed by the anti-apartheid resistance to 'the West's vital mineral reserves'. Afghanistan is held up as an important moral and strategic victory and as an example to inspire similar campaigns elsewhere. Open support is declared by WACL for the Kampuchean People's National Liberation Front and the National Democratic Front in Burma. WACL declares, too, that it intends to focus in the future on reviving civil conflict in Vietnam as well as Laos.

Turning to Africa as a whole the report goes on to target Mozambique and Angola. Concern is expressed over the declared South African policy to withdraw from Angola and Namibia. WACL hints that a military takeover in South Africa may be in the offing should Botha carry this through. The report states that WACL should also provide support to the Ethiopian Democratic Union, operating from the Sudan. Finally, attention is turned to Central America. The report makes it clear that WACL should be worried about the amount of aid getting to the contras – not enough – and the loss of US troops in Europe if the situation escalated in Central America generally.

Another document is addressed to the WACL Conference and is from Western Goals UK. It begins with an appeal for WACL to wake up to the situation in South West Africa regarding the threat to Western mining interests. Particular concern is expressed over the fate of UNITA and what would happen to them if their 'supplies' were cut off. Western Goals sees South Africa itself as the final casualty.

This letter by Western Goals UK lists at the bottom the names of the more senior people associated with that organisation. Its two main patrons are named as General Sir Walter Walker and Major Sir Patrick Wall. Wall has helped to head the British chapter of WACL for some years; he also founded the 92 Group of Tory MP's. Walker has been involved in a number of crackpot

continued on page 4

INVESTIGATION

Zeus Resurfaces

Investigations by Black Flag have resulted in our tracing some of the main people involved in Zeus Security Consultants, the company linked to the Sizewell surveillance and the Hilda Murrell scandal. Furthermore we have discovered that far from Zeus going to ground it in fact reorganised and carried on its activities, without break, under the guise of two other security firms, specially created for that purpose.

Our intitial investigations centred on Peter Hamilton, who was one of the directors of Zeus. Hamilton began work as a security consultant as far back as the mid 1950's. His training ground was the British army, where he worked in Intelligence. In Malaya he was attached to Special Forces on counter-insurgency work as part of the campaign organised by Kitson. After this he went on to do consultancy work, while employed by MI5, for the governments of Cyprus (1958-60) and Rhodesia (1960-62). After this four year stint he returned to Britain where he was appointed Security Consultant to Chubb Security Services (now part of the Racal Group). Eventually, in 1978, he became a director of Zeus Security Consultants. All the shares of Zeus were initially owned by General Omega AG, which in turn was run by Antonio von Marx, a member of the Goldsmith family by marriage. Goldsmith then, through his various companies, bought up these shares. By 1984, in the wake of the Hilda Murrell scandal, Zeus had widened its directorship to include personnel from Pritchards Security. Previously one of the directors of Zeus was Lord Chalfont, who appeared to resign prior to the Hilda Murrell killing. By 1984 Zeus, by all intents and purposes, seemed to disappear. Records show that it was dissolved. But, according to our investigations, this was not so.

At the end of 1983 Zeus began to transfer its records to an address in Bury St Edmunds. A new company was created, called Peter Hamilton (Security Consultants) Ltd. Involved, at director level, in this new company, was a certain Donald Grocott – he too was a director of Zeus. Also listed as a director of this new company was Lord Chalfont. He became a director in 1983, soon after he resigned from Zeus. By March 1984 a fourth Zeus director, Sir Dallas Bernard (who is also listed as being a director of Merrion Security Services Ltd) joined the new team.

The new company set up offices in the City of London and continued work – the same work as Zeus – as though the old company had never ceased. Chalfont, in fact, stayed with this new company for three years, until going off to form his own organisation, the Institute for the Study of Terrorism, which is currently acting on behalf of British Intelligence in its dealings with certain mercenary organisations (see 'The Other Face Of 'National Liberation'' in this issue).

Peter Hamilton (Security Consultants) Ltd is very much still operational. Furthermore we have discovered that it was involved, together with the former Zeus people, in setting up a second front security company. This company is known as Securipol Ltd and is registered in Bury St Edmunds. We believe, however, that it is a paper organisation as it appears, from our limited enquiries, to have no offices. From its Articles of Association, of which we have seen a copy, its brief is identical to that of Zeus. We also note that in 1986 Lord Chalfont was appointed a director to Securipol. Its limited directorship includes two Italian 'security consultants', namely Commendatore Luigi Cereda and Giovanni Cereda, who presumably are related. We know nothing about these two, but will not be surprised if it is shown that they are involved with Italian intelligence.

It was not difficult to trace Peter Hamilton (security Consultants) Ltd – a company that is Zeus in all but name. It is based on the fourth floor of an address in Eastcheap in the City, namely number 37. Nor was it difficult to trace an address in Bury St Edmunds where Peter Hamilton himself is based (although we cannot be sure whether this is also an operational address for Securipol). This other address is Driftway, Badwell Ash, Bury St Edmunds.

We would be grateful for any further information about Hamilton/Securipol, particularly in relation to activities in the Bury St Edmunds area.

N.B. As with the Sizewell Inquiry several campaigners against the Hinkley Point Inquiry (which opened up three weeks ago) have experienced unexplained break-ins. We have heard, too, of one anti-nuclear campaigner, Bill Pritchard, who not only found his Barmouth flat had been searched but his phone 'disabled' in a professional manner – he, incidentally, had links with Hilda Murrell herself.

Stirling Stuff(ed)

In a recent BBC Panorama Special on the allegations made by former MI5 officer Peter Wright, for a brief second a proof copy of one of the pages of the original manuscript of 'Spycatcher' was flashed on to the TV screen. The proof showed, in Wright's own handwriting, final corrections and deletions from his co-author's submission, which was based on extensive interviews with Wright. The proofed page, unamended, presumably contained information much closer to what Wright would have wanted to say if he had decided to be more candid. Only one proofed page was flashed on the screen and there was much crossing out by Wright. However in that brief moment we were able to identify one name that Wright had originally intended to appear in the book, but which he had obviously decided to delete at proof stage. The name we saw crossed out was that of David Stirling.

David Stirling, as regular *Black Flag* readers will know, was the founder of the SAS. He was also the founder of a secret 'army', GB75, set up at the height of the Wilson destabilisation campaign. More recently he has been involved in the organising of a right-wing trade union lobby group, Truemid.

In our article, 'What Peter Wright Didn't Say', published over a year ago in September 1987, just after his memoirs appeared and in the middle of a ban on the book, we listed a number of names of prominent people who we were certain were involved in the anti-Wilson plot. We said at the time that we stood by our claims. One of the people we named was David Stirling. The confirmation that Stirling was involved in the plot by Wright himself – via his proofed manuscript – tends to beg the question just how many other prominent people named in our investigation have also been deleted from the proofs? Only those with access to the proofs will be able to answer that. Wright's co-author especially, and his publisher, are in a unique position to throw more light on the affair, if they so choose. But will loyalty to the 'national interest', or to their client, get in their way?

Already there are rumours that Wright has been nobbled. The recent Panorama Special programme was a fine example of cover-up. Their whole 'investigation' centred on one – and one only – aspect of the conspiracy, namely the role of MI5. Scant attention was paid to the other players in the plot. We refer here to the media, to the right-wing think tanks and propaganda organisations, to IRD, to certain prominent Tories, to certain former military personnel, etc. As far as the BBC is concerned they didn't exist. And the impression they would prefer the British public to have is that Wright is a bumbling old fool at best and a traitor at worst.

In our view Wright was his own worst enemy. He undoubtedly was central to the Wilson plot and furthermore was used by others. But in his zeal to get Wilson he found himself out on a limb, with no one to bail him out. Seen officially more and more as an eccentric and an embarrassment he was left with no other recourse than to get his revenge and go to print. His motive was double-edged: to reveal that MI5 had acted in the 'national interest' in plotting as they did, and also to revive the smear stories about Wilson in one last feeble effort to ruin his reputation once and for all.

The newspapers are now falling over themselves to unearth more facts surrounding the conspiracy. One of the better exposes has been by David Leigh, in the *Observer*, who has written a book on the subject, shortly to be published. We suggest that readers compare his findings with the extensive allegations we made in 'Maggies MI5 Tendency' and in the stories printed in *Lobster* – all published over 18 months ago, prior to Wright's memoirs being made available.

WACL

continued from page 3

schemes in the past including Defence Begins At Home, which failed to get together an 'army' of loyalists to help defend the country in the event of Soviet invasion.

Vice-presidents of WG are listed as Peter Dally (another WACL-British Chapter figure), Professor Antony Flew, Linda Guell, Tryggvi McDonald, Reverend Martin Smyth MP, Right Hon Lord Sudeley, Harvey Ward, and Reverend Basil Watson. The Board of Directors include Mark Haley, Michael McCrone, Paul Masson (another FCS member), Stuart Notholt (FCS), Gideon Sherman (any relation to Sir Alfred?) and Andrew Smith.

According to one of our correspondents Western Goals shares offices with a number of other prominent right-wing organisations. Our information shows that Western Goals UK uses a private mailing house (the same one used by ourselves, in fact), but if our correspondent is referring to another address then his information is of more value. The organisations he names as sharing the same address as Western Goals UK include the Coalition for a Free Britain (involved in dirty tricks anti-Labour Party campaign, etc), and the World Institute on Human Rights (WIHR), which apparently concentrates on anti-communist resistance in the Soviet Bloc and in Third World countries.

The Observer newspaper has also recently published a report on WACL and its associates. It states that contra leader Adolfo Calero was being brought to the Tory Party conference in Brighton on behalf of the International Freedom Foundation, an organisation we have in the past linked to the Heritage Foundation and to Brian Crozier, who helped to set up the MI6/CIA front, the Institute for the Study of Conflict. The IFF apparently acts as a conduit for Heritage Foundation money and has used Crozier in the past to launder this money to specially chosen organisations in Britain. One organisation suspected of getting this money is the Campaign for a Free Britain which has recently got together with the Freedom Association to set up the Campaign for Student Freedom (encourages spies on the campus).

The Observer report also mentions the role of Andrew Smith in all of this. According to the *Observer* one of the organisations sharing the same address as a RENAMO support organisation is the International Society for Human Rights (ISHR). We wonder if the ISHR and the World Institute on Human Rights are connected? The ISHR is apparently run by another ex-FCS member, Karen Cooksley. The International Freedom Foundation, incidentally, according to the Observer report, has an office in South Africa, so it is quite probable that most of these far-right organisations are getting funding from the Apartheid Regime itself.

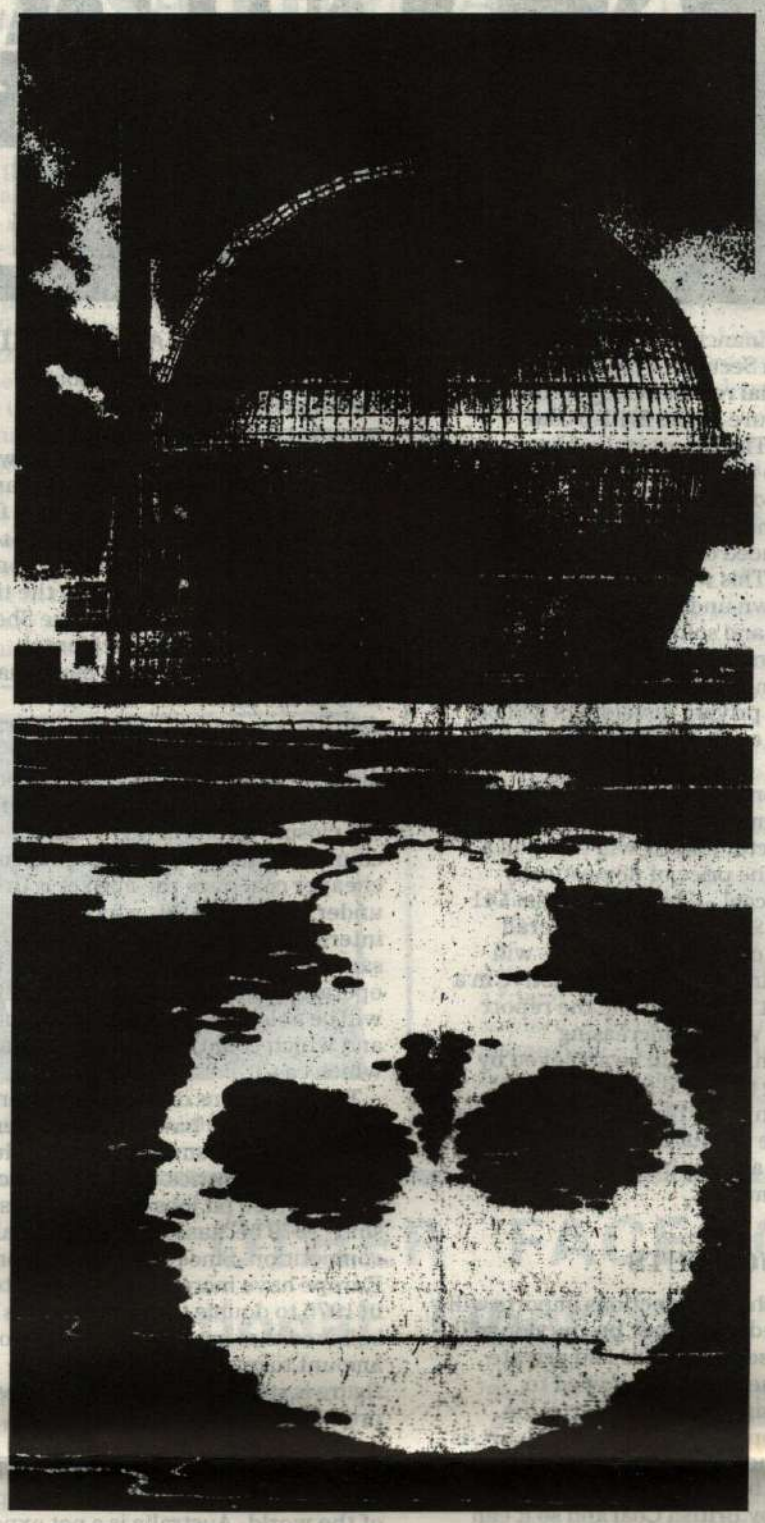
Information about the youth wing of Western Goals was sent to us via a copy of their paper, Young European. This purports to join together the young Right of the West with the pro-Capitalist young of the Eastern Bloc. It also repeats information much expressed in Western Goals literature. The youth wing is officially called the Young Europeans for World Freedom (YEWF) and is the European section of the World Youth Freedom League, the international youth wing of WACL.

Young European

Young European describes YEWF as 'an international movement of young nationalists and anti-communists' – sounds just right for the NF to join! It claims that the World Youth Freedom League has offices in Taipei, Seoul, Washington and London and, together with WACL, works closely with Eastern Bloc emigre groups to provide support to nationalist resistance groups in the Soviet countries. The European section was formally founded during the WACL conference in Geneva. Individuals involved in YEWF include Andrew Smith (again), who refers to himself as its Secretary-General, and Stuart Notholt, its Chairman. YEWF, like Western Goals and WACL, are ostensibly helping to finance national liberation struggles in the name of reaction: the only ones who benefit from such conflicts are the nation states, which swing from marxist to CIA controlled and leaving hundreds of thousands of dead in the process. Likewise, in the Eastern bloc the anti-Soviet groups cover a wide political spectrum, from genuine anti-totalitarians to Rightists: to fail to discriminate between these tendencies in the name of resistance can only help the Right generally and, in particular, organisations like YEWF, who sow seeds of confusion in the centres of conflict in the hope of reaping the benefits when the time is right. Finally, one other group that deserves special mention is the Research Foundation for the Study of Terrorism. This was ostensibly set up about a year ago by Michael Ivens of Aims of Industry and Norris McWhirter of the Freedom Association. Also involved is terrorism guru Paul Wilkinson. Giving it 'respectability' is Lord Chalfont. *The Observer* alleges that the Research Foundation is also involved in anti-Renamo propaganda. Observer journalists will know, of course, that it is within their management's interests to attack all such organisations since the owner of that newspaper, Tiny Rowland, has now switched sides (as has the British Government) and supports the Marxist government in Mozambique in order to protect his Lonhro mining interests. As for Chalfont, he has enough on his plate now that his role in Zeus and related security companies is coming out. No doubt Rowland would like to see Chalfont's career damaged, if only for purely financial reasons and for his connections with Goldsmith, who has never lost an interest in wanting to take the Observer over. The Research Foundation for the Study of Terrorism must surely be discredited by now, although who can forget the time when the *Guardian* used its material as a source for an article attacking the so-called 'Hurricane Gang'?

N.B. We note with interest that the 'star invite' at the WACL conference was none other than Colonel Oliver North, currently facing investigation with Singlaub in the Contragate scandal.

EATING CANCER



Between 1953 and 1980 the US Department of Defence had funded food irradiation projects to the tune of $52m (partly in the hope that army rations could be devised that would need no refrigeration). In line with its purpose as a promoter of nuclear energy the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) gave its blessing to the process and took part in a Joint Committee on the Wholesomeness of Irradiated Foods in company with the Food and Agricultural Organisation (FAO) and the World Health Organisation (WHO) — all of whom came out enthusiastically in favour of irradiation in 1976. More recently an IAEA-backed publication (the Burgen Report) produced in the UK has repeated its approval of the food irradiation project. The chair of the committee which made the report, Sir Arnold Burgen, is a part-time director of Amersham International, Britain's leading isotope manufacturer. Another consultant to the British government on irradiated foods, Frank Ley, is the director of Isotron, the company which just happens to have all the irradiation plants.

IRRADIATION METHODS

There are four ways to irradiate food commercially. Food can be bombarded with gamma rays from a Cobalt 60 source. It can also be bombarded with Caesium 137. High energy electrons can also be directed at food. The fourth method is by targeting the high energy electrons on to metal plates, creating X-rays, which are then used to irradiate the food.

The food irradiation industry asserts that radioactivity cannot be induced in foods, whichever method is used. But according to Brennan, Butters, Cowell and Lilley in Food Engineering Operations (Applied Science Publishers, 1976) "ionising radiation with high energy can cause radioactivity to be created in the material that is bombarded". And according to Josephson and Peterson (Eds) in Preservation of Foods By Ionising Radiation (CRC Press, Florida), even if low-energy ionising radiations are used 'it is still possible for some trace metal compounds in the food to be made radioactive.'

Cobalt 60 is the source proposed for use in Australia, for example. With this system a conveyor belt carries the foods into and out of a radiation chamber where even the lowest levels of radiation could cause a human being to die within one minute. This, in fact, almost happened in the Radiation Technology Inc. plant at Rockaway (New Jersey, USA) on September 23, 1977, when a worker, Michael Pierson, entered a room where he was exposed to a Cobalt 60 source. Karl Abrahams, a spokesman for the Nuclear Regulatory Commission, has estimated that Pierson remained in the room for only 20 seconds and would have received a fatal dose if he had remained there another 20 seconds.

There are now more than 20 countries around the world engaged in the irradiation of food, some for export only. The Netherlands and South Africa irradiate many foods and although the importation of these foods into countries, say, like Australia are banned at present the fact that they zap their cocoa beans makes one wonder about Dutch chocolate, on sale in many countries. At present there is no way of determining whether or not a food has been irradiated.

However non-food items, such as medical supplies and cosmetics, wine-cask liners and wine-bottle corks, are already being irradiated in Australia. And once the Australian Federal and State governments give the go-ahead the irradiation process will be extended to chicken, dates, mangoes, onions, pawpaws, potatoes, pulses, rice, spices, condiments, dehydrated onions, onion powder, strawberries, dried fish and fish products, wheat and ground-wheat products.

SUPPOSED BENEFITS

According to the manufacturers of irradiated food the process kills insects and bacteria. It is true that some insects and bacteria (such as salmonella) are killed but other bacteria remains unharmed — notably the far more dangerous botulism — and as a result food may seem to be okay (because normal indications of rotteness, such as bad smell, will be absent) while still harbouring deadly toxins. Also, Unique Radiolytic Products (URP's) of unknown composition — new substances not found in irradiated foods — are created by the irradiation process. A low dose for food irradiation is in the range 0–1 KiloGray and will kill most insects. A medium dose of 1–10 kiloGray will destroy most bacteria. The US Food and Drug Agency said in 1980 that foods irradiated with a dose of 1 kiloGray or more "may contain enough Unique Radiolytic Products to warrant toxicological evaluation". So far no toxicological evaluation has been made.

The irradiation process is also supposed to kill fungi. In truth the opposite, in certain important cases, can occur. For example an accepted cause of liver cancer is the presence of aflatoxins in our food (these are poisons produced by moulds naturally occurring in damp conditions) and when some common foods, including cereals and root vegetables, were experimentally irradiated in an Indian study in 1975 aflatoxin levels were found to have been significantly increased.

The manufacturers also assert that irradiation prevents decay (in some cases, yes — mainly in grains), prolongs shelf-life (obviously), increases exports (again, obviously) and has no harmful effect on vitamins (this is patently untrue as many tests have shown that vitamins A, B, C, E and K are depleted by irradiation).

The manufacturers also argue that irradiation is harmless to people. They base this, however, on animal tests. But these claims were refuted by the US Food and Drug Administration in 1984 when an internal review of the test data showed that only 5 of the 413 studies appeared to support the argument that irradiation is safe. Problems arising directly as a result of food irradiation included testicular tumours, kidney disease, birth abnormalities and abnormal development of blood cells. Evidence against food irradiation has also come from the National Institute of Nutrition and the Indian Council of Medical Research, which conducted a study called 'Effects of feeding irradiated wheat to malnourished children', the results of which were published in the 'American Journal of Clinical Nutrition' (February 1975). The following quote is taken from the study:

"Fifteen children suffering from severe protein calorie malnutrition were divided into three groups of five each and received diets containing either unirradiated, freshly irradiated or stored irradiated wheat. All the children were hospitalised for a period of 6 weeks and leucoyte cultures were done initially and at intervals of 2 weeks. Children receiving freshly irradiated wheat developed polypoid cells and certain abnormal cells in increasing number as the duration of feeding increased, and showed a gradual reversal to basal level of nil after withdrawal of irradiated wheat, In marked contrast, none of the children fed unirradiated diet developed any abnormal cells while children fed stored irradiated wheat showed polypoid and abnormal cells in significantly decreasing numbers. Though the biological significance of polypoidy is not clear, its association with malignancy makes it imperative that the wholesomeness of irradiated wheat for human consumption be very carefully assessed."

The above is a clear indictment of food irradiation, as well as the highly unethical tests that were conducted in order to that these conclusions could be arrived at.

Irradiated food manufacturers attempt to argue, too, that the process is harmless to workers. This, again ,is untrue. There has already been a death in a medical-goods irradiation plant in Norway and in the USA the Nuclear Regulatory Commission's order suspending the licence of Radiation Technology Inc. (the company that performed most of the Army's tests) stated: "the recent investigation findings...demonstrate a pattern of wrongdoing so pervasive that the NRC no longer has reasonable assurance...that the Licensee will comply with NRC requirements and that the public health and safety, including the safety of the Licensee's employees, will be protected". Two other irradiation companies in the USA have also been in trouble for disobeying safety regulations.

The final argument of the manufacturers is that food irradiation is harmless to the environment. This, of course, is also untrue. Food irradiation will involve the transportation of Cobalt 60. Also, according to London Food Promotions Ltd there is the possibility of mutations occurring in insects and bacteria "particularly around large-scale irradiation plants".

And how are irradiated foods presented? It was quickly realised that not many people would buy food tagged with the word 'irradiated' so new terms have been devised. "Treated with ionising radiation for your own protection" was one phrase — along with the more snappy 'picowaved', 'picofresh', 'freshlike', 'radurised', 'radicided' and 'radappertised'.

ABUSE & COSTS

Already there has been a case of misuse of the process in Britain. The Imperial Food Group has admitted irradiating a consignment of prawns in Holland after they had been rejected by British authorities on the grounds of bacterial contamination. Irradiating the prawns allowed them to pass the test because the bacteria had been killed — but the poisons created by the bacteria remained.

As for economics of food irradiation, according to one study irradiation is not an effective decay-control agent on fresh vegetables and irradiation of fresh fruit to prevent wastage doesn't appear to have broad potential commercial application. Another study stated that 'irradiation of meats causes undesirable changes in colour, aroma and flavour. These changes can be minimised by packaging, followed by irradiation at low temperatures. The treatment to be applied to any particular type of product will need to balance the improvement in microbiological quality against the magnitude of organoleptic changes induced by irradiation'. (Organoleptic means taste and smell, Eds.) The same source also stated that 'products with a stronger flavour and aroma (such as smoked ham) may better mask irradiation-induced organoleptic changes' ('Wet dog' is a term used by one member of an experimental team to describe the smell of irradiated meat.)

The push to get irradiation accepted is now world-wide amongst food manufacturers. Likewise there is a growing world-wide movement to prevent it.

Irradiation has the support of Campbell's Soups, General Foods, Gerber (baby products), Heinz, Mars, Liptons, McCormick's Spices, as well as the owners of the irradiation plants.

The push is for profit at the risk of health, safety and countless other hazards. The manufacturers believe that the dangers to health are not easily verifiable, at least in the short-term, and therefore are worth the risk to extend the profit margins. Education, on the other hand, of the dangers, has to be increased if we are to prevent food irradiation being acceptable and being introduced openly and even covertly.

Source: JM

S. AFRICAN FIRMS GO IN FOR KILL

The City financiers Kleinwort Grieveson Securities produced a confidential report in May of this year on the future of the British coal industry. The report states that in the lead-up to the privatisation of British Coal the coal industry in Britain will undergo major changes. More emphasis will be placed on private firms, for example. This will mean that mines closed down under British Coal will be reopened and sold to private contractors. Also there is to be a greater emphasis on open-cast mining. Again the private developers will be invited to exploit this sector.

Kleinwort Grieveson expect that the switch to more open cast mining and private sector mining will result in a saving in the price of domestically produced coal – a reduction from £41 per ton to £29 per ton. The overall savings in costs – around 30% – will make the industry more attractive in a sell-off. At the same time the report highlights ways of increasing production. This will be achieved by increasing the yield for open cast production from 14m tons to 25m tons, for private production from 5m tons to 25m tons, and for imports from 12m tons to 25m tons.

MORE JOB CUTS

Under these projections imports will be doubled, open-cast production will be increased by a third and private development will be allowed to increase significantly. Deep mine production, according to the report, is to be reduced – from 88m tons to 4m tons. The bulk of deep-mined coal is handled by British Coal and so it can only be assumed that the deep mines will either be closed almost in their entirety (leaving only the 'super pits') or that many of these deep mines will be sold off to private contractors. Either way the implication is that a great deal of these deep mines will be shut down and there will a further round of massive job cuts. Some miners will be expected to join the private contractors, others will be expected to join the dole queues.

As for unionisation, the UDM will be feted for the private mines – and if they dont knuckle down to the new conditions then the new bosses will try for no unions at all.

The plan as a whole is to effect enormous savings in the lead-up to privatisation, but also to open up the market for development to all comers. Foreign coal, for all sorts of reasons, is on the whole much cheaper than British produced coal. For the domestic market, therefore, foreign coal is much more attractive and so the Government hopes to encourage greater exploitation of that market. At the same time the Government is anxious to make British produced coal more competitive. Privatisation and greater emphasis on open-cast production are the means of doing this, according to the report. In reality this will mean higher productivity rates and lower wages.

Already Britain imports significant amounts of coal from other countries – mainly from Australia, South Africa, Poland and Columbia. There is supposed to be an embargo on South African coal, but this is easily breached. Most South African coal enters Britain as 'Dutch' coal. It arrives via Holland. This South African coal is mixed with coal from China in Holland and sent to France, West Germany, Italy as well as Britain. The main import agents in Britain for this 'Dutch' coal are Cory Coal International of London and Transcor Coal of Redhill (see last *Black Flag*).

INTERNATIONAL CARTEL

The main trader for this South African coal is Shell (according to records expropriated by the anti-apartheid group, RARA). However some ships transporting this coal are owned by BP and Total. In return for the coal Shell sends oil shipments to South Africa (also in contravention of the embargo). But this is only the tip of the iceberg. Multinationals like Shell, BP, Total, Exxon and Occidental Petroleum have cornered more than 50% of the international coal distribution market. Their own strategy is to capture the entire import distribution market for coal, to flood the markets with cheap coal so as force the closure of pits in high cost countries, then to put up the cost of the cheaper coal once the market is firmly under control. In this way the international coal market will go the same way as the oil market: it will be operated by an international cartel who will be able to determine market prices and which countries can produce and which can't.

The operations of the international coal marketeers have already taken their toll on the survival of the industry in certain countries. In the EEC alone over 200,000 pit jobs have been lost since 1979 because of international competition. Since 1975 coal imports to Europe have increased from 41m tones in 1975 to double that in 1985. It is now believed that imports to Europe now amount to over 120m tons and the figure is steadily increasing. Domestic production, however, is steadily decreasing and the current total is just less than double than for imports. The same pattern can be seen in other parts of the world. Australia is a net exporter of coal – in fact its the largest single exporter of coal in the world – but its production is decreasing because of cut-backs due to cheaper competition. The market with the biggest potential for exploitation is China: there coal is the cheapest in the world and the reserves are enormous. When the coal market in China is opened up the effect will be that many more Western mines will close.

SOUTH AFRICAN INTERESTS

The multinationals have a great opportunity to carve the market up between them. Not just in the underdeveloped countries but in the industrialised nations as well. The multinationals with the greatest expertise in the international coal market are virtually all South African based. One such company is Consolidated Goldfields. ConsGold is theoretically a British company but most of its assets and nearly all of the operations are based in southern Africa. Currently ConsGold is fighting off a takeover bid from Anglo American and De Beers, which are two more South African based conglomerates. ConsGold itself has mining interests in South Africa as well as Namibia.

Another company that has expressed interest in taking over the British coal industry is Chartered Consolidated – again a 'British based' South African firm with mining interests in southern Africa. A third firm making a bid is RTZ, which again has mining interests in southern Africa as well as South America. All three firms are integrally linked to the southern African mining industry and to the South African economy. If ConsGold is taken over by De Beers and Anglo American and if it buys into the British coal market, then that market will be directly linked to the South African economy as well.

At the same De Beers has been apparently developing a network of front companies in order to establish an off-shore tax haven on the Isle of Man. These front companies are Pacini Ltd, Manxtaol Cutting Tools Ltd, and Diamanx Products Ltd. Heading De Beers' and Anglo-American's bid for ConsGold is former British Leyland chairman, Sir Michael Edwardes.

Both Anglo-American and De Beers say that if they take over ConsGold then they will sell off their South African interests. What this will mean is that the two giant corporations will have significantly moved their investments outside of conflict-torn South Africa while the investors will remain within that country. With the British coal industry up for grabs South African investors see it as a safer long term option than the coal mining interests in their own country.

In taking over ConsGold the South African companies will also acquire Amey Roadstone, a wholly owned subsidiary of ConsGold and Britain's leading suppliers of aggregates for the construction industry.

As well as mining interests in South Africa, ConsGold has interests in Namibia, North America and Australia in the gold, lead, silver, copper, zinc and coal markets.

It should also be noted that the Managing Director of ConsGold – Allen Sykes – was commissioned to co-write a paper for the right-wing think-tank, the Centre for Policy Studies in 1987. The paper was on the Privatisation of British Coal and is the central policy paper influencing Government strategy on the future of the British coal industry.

FRAGMENTATION?

The other companies interested in taking over the British coal industry – RTZ and Charter Consolidated – have established mining interests in several countries. RTZ mines a range of metals and minerals and owns mines in Namibia, Cornwall and Australia. Chartered Consolidated is in mining, finance and investment and operates in Western Europe and North America; however it has strong links with De Beers and Anglo American. So whatever gains Charterted Consolidated makes in the British coal industry, De Beers and Anglo American will not be far behind.

As well as the big conglomerates there are also several smaller, British-based, firms interested in taking over parts of the British coal industry. The Cardiff based firm, Ryans International is one, others include Burnett and Hallamshire, Costain Mining, Floyd Oil, the Miller Group, Taylor Woodrow, and Wimpey Construction. None of these firms are noted for their good industrial relations; several are prominent sponsors of the Economic League.

Burnett and Hallamshire owns open cast mines through its subsidiary Northern Strip Mining; it also owns mining operations in Chile, the USA, the Philippines and South Africa. Costain has property interests in Zimbabwe, West Africa, Spain and Australia and already owns two private mines in Staffordshire. Floyd Oil is involved in the Energy business and currently owns seven deep mines in the UK (it is the largest private underground coal operator in the UK). The Miller Group is involved in Scottish mining and the construction industry. Ryans International is the largest private coal operator in the UK with interests in open-cast mining as well as mining in the USA and Belgium. It has already expressed an interest in taking over the controversial Margam pit in South Wales as well as Britain's coal-fired power stations. Taylor Woodrow is a construction company with interests in Britain, Australia, Canada and Malaysia. It also aims to take over British coal-fired power stations. Wimpey is into land development, leisure, engineering, waste management, mining and property development and has interests in the UK, Australia, the Carribean, Canada and the USA.

Of course if Taylor Woodrow or Ryans International take over part of the coal industry in Britain as well as coal-fired power stations then they will provide a direct company link between those industries.

POWER STATIONS AT RISK

In April of this year, with the announcement of the privatisation of the Electricity industry, several representatives of major international conglomerates had a secret meeting with Tory MP's to discuss the possibility of buying British coal-fired power stations. We can reveal the identity of these conglomerates. They are Anglo American (the largest coal producer in South Africa), Gencor (a major producer of coal, gold and uranium in South Africa), Johannesburg Consolidated (owns a variety of mining and other concerns in South Africa) and Rand Mines (owns several mining concerns in South Africa and co-owns, with Shell, open-cast sites).

Again, there would be major implications if any of these companies were successful in buying British power stations. There would, for example, be a direct market link between coal produced by these companies in South Africa and electricity produced by these companies in Britain. And in the case of Gencor they would find a direct market for their uranium with British nuclear power stations.

Other major firms who have also expressed interest in both the British electricity industry as well as the coal industry are BP (which owns coal mines in Australia, the USA and South Africa), Du Pont (which owns coal-producing subsidiaries), Total (which has coal and mining interests in France, South Africa and Australia), Occidental Petroleum (which has open cast mining interests in China) and Shell (which owns coal mines in China, Canada, Botswana, Australia and South Africa).

Their obvious interests in the power stations is because they produce the oil and coal that run them. They too, therefore, are prime contenders in the market to buy the power stations as well as the coal mining interests in Britain.

DIRE CONSEQUENCES

So, this is the overall picture. A large number of company, most with South African interests, are ready and waiting to take over the British coal (and electricity) industry. The British Government is keen that the industry should go to private companies that can exploit the world market to the full. The consequences for miners in Britain are, of course, going to be disastrous if these companies have their way.

First, there will be the usual asset stripping. Then there will be cut-backs and massive redundancies. Next there will be a reorganisation of the industry to take account of international markets.

We have a couple of years left to fight this. The miners are not in a position to fight this on their own. Unless we all work together then the consequences are not worth thinking about.

1888: THE MATCH GIRLS

One hundred years ago London was a mass of discontent, in the middle of a serious depression that went on solidly amid increasing wealth of the upper class; that's to say almost like today except for the spirit of resistance. (This explains, incidentally, the panic the authorities were in over the Jack the Ripper murders which could have brought royalty into disrepute).

The industrial capitalists were mainly Liberals: Joe Chamberlain had yet to bring them into the Tory Party, still the party of the aristocracy and landowners. It was making a bid for the working class but politically its supporters could not alter their ways.

Among the great Liberal industrialists were Bryant & May, who manufactured matches in East London using imported wood from Sweden and an abundance of cheap young female labour.

The scandal of the occurrence of phossy-jaw (phosphorus poisoning of the mouth) and the resultant inquiries into the conditions of labour, with 100 hours for well under what is now 50p, providing you paid your own child assistant and supplied brushes and glue, brought it to public attention without having any effect on the consciences of the shareholders. Matters came to a head when Bryant & May, who considered themselves philanthropists 'finding work for the poorer industrial classes', erected a monument to Gladstone and deducted a contribution from their workers' individual pay packets. The provocation was too great and the young women decided to take action. They went on strike, despite the faint-hearted, who are still among us, saying that one could not strike in times of mass unemployment.

Among those who had written many exposures of the exploitation of children in the match industry was Mrs Annie Besant, and a march to her Fleet Street office led her to champion the cause more vigorously; it was, however, a strike entirely in the hands of the previously unorganised workers, and they won hands down.

The End of Trades Unions Warning

Sir John Hoskyns, the Director-General of the Institute of Directors, has warned unions that their end is in sight and the collective bargaining process will be the first to get the kick.

At a meeting of the Industrial Participation Association at Nottingham university Hoskyns told his audience that 'Hammondism' is not enough and that collective bargaining has got to be dealt with once and for all. Hoskyns, instead, wants employers to tear up contracts with employees and treat every worker as an 'individual'. By this he would envisage all workers negotiating on a one-to-one basis for pay increases, etc, depending on individual productivity acheivement, etc.

Hoskyns added: '*If we – in management and unions ©sic® – think that individual contracts, backed-up by profit-related pay and employee share ownership, are likely to lead to better performance, higher pay, more satisfying work and more responsible management, then it is up to us to think hard about how to get there... if collective bargaining fades away like yesterday's production line – as it is already starting to do – then trade unions will have to rethink their role and purpose*'.

These sentiments are echoed not only in Tory policy, but in the policy documents of the other parties desperately trying to catch up with Conservatism. Even Marxism Today's so-called 'post-Fordism' would fit in well with Hoskyns' view of the future.

The strategy, clearly, of all these political tendencies is to rid the country of effective unionism altogether. Share ownership, individual 'rights' (eg bargaining), privately bought benefits, etc – all are promoted by the whole political spectrum, from the far right to the state socialists. If the fate of the unions are left in the hands of these cronies then we might as well give up now.

Trade unionism has one long history of sell-outs and the marxists of today are no better than they have always been when it comes to interfering in matters that are none of their business. Their mimicry of the Tory populist philosophy of individualism will not only lead to the end of collective bargaining, but to the end of collective action and unionism itself. It will be everyone for themselves and 200 years of history thrown down the drain.

If we didn't know better we'd believe the marxists, particularly of today, are working hand in glove with the forces of the Right – or perhaps we're underestimating ourselves?

Post-Fordism and any other new-left jargon are glamourous-sounding terms that signify much more than they apparently mean. They signify the latest reconciliation between the left and capitalism, and are given respectability in the era of glasnost and perestroika – more buzz words created for media consumption. They signify, moreover, the beginning of a gradual slide towards the sort of corporate unionism espoused by Hammond: bit by bit the other unions will follow, egged on by the Labour Party, Marxism Today and the New Statesman & Society as they each compete to become the herald of this creed.

Those who reject all of this are cast back into the stone age – we are 'traditionalists' for wanting to abolish the capitalist system of exploitation and create a society based on justice. Social Justice: surely this is a notion from the ark! What is the need for justice when we have the company to take care of us? What is the need for co-operation when our livelihood requires that we gain the highest rewards through mutual competition? All 'traditional' values can surely be turned upside down when a little bit of marxian pragmatism can be applied!

If Hoskyns and his friends on the state left have their way the future will indeed look bleak. Our children will be educated according to what we can afford to pay; the schools will be expected to run at a profit and produce exam results to order. Our health care will be funded by business and if our illnesses prove to be a liability then we will have only ourselves to blame. Our old people will have to rely on their private (if they have them) pension plans: there will be no handouts for them. And our housing will be tied to the companies we work for and those unemployed will have to beg in the streets for the charity of the wealthy, for there will be precious little else.

This is the society of the future that is sought after by Hoskyns and Marxism Today and the Labour Party as well as the Tories themselves. It is the product of individualism at its best.

Accept it and support it at one's peril, for those who will make gains by it will live in its misery.

Exporting Scapegoats

The trade in sending Belgium knackered horses for its slaughterhouses has been replaced by sending human scapegoats. The Heysel trial is no more than that.

The Heysel stadium was palpably unsafe; its wall could not stand up to an upsurge aginst it; 30,000 tickets were issued when there was a demand for five times that number; local officials made no effort to deal with the situation beforehand and insisted people go into sections and would not let them out, even when they knew they were in danger; to allow a drunken crowd to get out of hand may not have been their fault but could certainly be foreseen. They treated them like cattle irrespective of individuals.

There is no doubt that the British contingent came along drunk and aggressive, wearing provocative T-shirts and itching for a punch-up with any foreigners as part of the joys of football. The Italian fans came along exalting their club, not Italian chauvinism. The British jingoists were inflamed by the patriotic fires of Thatcherite enthusiasm oddly fanned by fascist groupings; they caused a disturbance, a wall fell down and perfectly innocent bystanders innocent of any particular partisanship were killed. Italians are rightly angered; but it is not 'the British' that caused the mayhem but the lunatic patriotism of the right-wing Sun-worshippers that finds football a pool to swim in. Who cares what happens to them? Serves them right, says the nation generally, thankful at finding a scapegoat, and allowed the Government to deport them without fuss to face trial in a Belgian court where the procedures seem to be sentence first, conviction second, trial after.

Yet are the people facing trial the ones who were responsible for the 39 victims, any more than 'England' is responsible?

The latter has already been decided and England banned from playing in Europe – though what should have beeen punished if anything was right wing patriotism – seen in other countries too – using football matches, not the football teams used as an excuse. This is what has prejudiced the species of trial now going on in Brussels.

How were the 26 accused, described as Liverpool supporters, chosen?

One or two were picked out in the crowd where they had been placed irrrespective of choice; others were picked out from video showings, notoriously unreliable for crowd incidents. It might be the occasional person was by chance among those responsible; the others are selected at random by being thought to have been glimpsed on edited video tape and have spent the best three years of their young lives in suspended agony awaiting a trial that can go on without limit while lawyers spend the odd time they can afford from their profitable cases to defend them.

Meantime hyper-patriotism flourishes and makes careers for politicians; not their actual dupes, but as it were their stand-ins, are pilloried, and the British State has agreed to their deportation.

The people on trial were selected according to the Nazi principle of picking a batch and intimidating the rest, without concern for whether it was actually the right batch. Belgium learned the technique from her occupiers.

The Dead Obey

The old-time atheists used to grumble that whereas the capitalists only wanted to exploit you in this life, the church wanted to exploit you in the next one too.

The imbalance is being rectified in Japan, where capitalists expect you not only to yield up your body and soul to the job for life (even spending all one's waking but unworking hours on company-based leisure, drinking, golfing or fishing with colleagues) but finally to go into 'eternal togetherness after a lifetime of loyal service' in a corporate tomb, where one's 'heroic sacrifice on the battlefield of business' is finally rewarded — it works out cheaper than doing anything for them while living.(source: *Daily Telegraph*,12.8.88)

Asahi, the brewers, have built an immense mausoleum to enshrine its workers who can still get together in the forever and sing company songs while enjoying eternal rest (they haven't yet got round to cremating the bodies and using the ashes in hour glasses as work timers).

Japanese style capitalism — industrial Mikadoism — is not a racially exclusive matter, any more than Nazism is a Germanic problem. It is a form of capitalism to which the rest of the capitalist world would like to move. It takes in military, patriotic, commercial and Statist values, like the Soviet system but in the interests of corporate capitalism. It is a matter of what degree of resistance one offers as to whether it ultimately conquers in Japan and the rest of the world.

FEEDBACK

BOOK REVIEW

THE BLACKLISTERS

by Mark Hollingsworth & Richard Norton-Taylor.

Not a bad book, well worth stealing. It has a good chapter on the origins of blacklisting, tracing certain aspects as far back as the 17th century. It was Clement Attlee, though, who in 1947 set up a Cabinet Committee on Subversive Activities to organise formally the comprehensive vetting system for the public sector.

The infamous meeting in Deans Yard, Westminster, where the EL was formally launched, is gone into. Invited to that meeting were John Gretton, a Tory MP, RC Kelly, representing the Brewing industry, Sir Alan Smith, the Director of the Engineering Employers Federation, Evan Williams, Chairman of the Mining Association, and Cuthbert Laws, Director of the Shipping Federation. The League's first Director-General, John Baker White, seems not only to have had a distinguished career in military intelligence and MI5 – much later, after heading the EL for 20 years or so, he returned to his Intelligence base and joined Section D of MI6, specialising in psychological operations.

But looking at the League in more recent years one interesting character is a certain Parry Rodgers. He became a member of the EL's Central Council in 1982. He is significant because he was also, at the same time, an appointee of the Employment Appeals Tribunal, which decides on appeals in relation to job dismissals, etc. He was quite a powerful figure all in all as he also served on the Final Selection Board of the Civil Service Commission.

Currently he is the Chairman of the Institute of Directors. So there we have someone high up in a private blacklisting agency, who just happens to vet appointments to the Civil Service on behalf of the Government and who also decided on the fate of workers, unfairly sacked, who turned to him for final arbitration. Likewise we wonder how much information from Civil Service and Tribunal records he fed to the League and how much information he relayed in the other direction? He was in a unique position.

The book looks at other blacklisting agencies too. Of the smaller investigation firms perhaps one worth noting is Richard Jacques-Turner, who has offices in Hull and London. This firm is estimated to have around 45,000 names on file. It seems that certain firms in the security business have set up what they euphemistically call protection associations. The way these work is that other firms can pay the security firm protection money (or insurance) against engaging troublemakers. To ensure against this the security firms keep extensive files of their own. One such firm engaged in this sort of business is Securicor. Many of these security firms get their information from the police, which is why a lot of these firms employ cops on their staff and senior cops as 'consultants'. For example the former head of Special Branch, Commander Rollo Watts, is now managing director of Saladin Security. The former Director-General of MI5 (from 1943-53) went on to become Chairman of Security Express Ltd. Another MI5 head, Sir Martin Furnival-Jones (1965-72) became a security consultant for ICI. These are but the tip of the iceberg. Other senior cops went on to set up their own security businesses. The Institute of Private Investigators is riddled with ex-cops and former military personnel. Many investigation agencies and security companies specialise in vetting, getting the information often from police files.

The book ends with some interesting comments on the legal aspects of blacklisting. The authors are quite categoric when they state that someone who has been blacklisted has no legal rights or cause for litigation as the law stands. The authors say that it is entirely lawful in the UK for a company to refuse to employ someone because of their political beliefs, their associations, or because of what they believe to be their political beliefs. To some outside the UK this might come as a surprise to find that McCarthyism is alive and well and positively encouraged by legislation. The situation also applies to trade unionism of course. However, the authors point out, it is unlawful, under the 1975 Employment Protection Act, for a company to dismiss a worker for their trade union activities practised during their period of employment. This, however, is meaningless. If an employee can prove unfair dismissal then a Tribunal (headed no doubt by a League official) can award compensation but not order the firm to reinstate the worker. And more lately, in February of this year, Patrick Nicholls (a junior Employment minister) stated that firms had the right to refuse employment to anyone with a trade union background. Presumably Nicholls is unaware of the 1975 Act or at least hopes that it can be flouted openly to the point of disrepute. For the most part, though, all this is irrelevant. The blacklisting business expands in spite of any legal loopholes and with the encouragement of government. It can only be beaten by counter measures on a similar scale and using similar methods.

LETTERS

Dear Black Flag,
On the Willie McRae thing, the Mulwarchar report, which he'd had stolen off him on the night of his murder, was about dumping nuke waste in Ayrshire, and not Oban. Oban is not an island, it's a town. Nirex were looking and sniffing around the Isle of Mull but we won't know 'till Decemberish where the front line will be. Another piece of evidence which supports the theory of murder and not suicide is the lack of powder burns to the head. Oh, and also the fact that the SCRAM office in Edinburgh had been broken into, had its copy of the Mulwarchar Report stolen, then set on fire, the previous night to the murder of Willie. Ask anyone these days what the precise details of the Mulwarchar Report were and you'll get a blank look!!

Ian.

The page of News from Spain (15-08-88) was ludicrously inaccurate – down to spelling Espana incorrectly – there is a squiggly line over the N.

With reference to the AIT faction – have you considered what they say about us – CNT – might be deliberately inaccurate? Would it not be more appropriate for them to say what they do – if anything – rather than just attack the CNT all the time.

Confederacio Nacional del Treball de Catalunya (Federacion de Ensenanza, CNT Barcelona)

Editors: Believe it or not this is a genuine official letter from the Phoney CNT which has a handful of English spokespeople, previously unknown here, who imagine the CNT-AIT to be some sort of hippy breakaway from a mainstreamlined union called the CNT. Our facilities on Anglo-American typesetting don't permit a tilde ('squiggly bit') or accents any more than their facilities in Spanish State-corporation unionism admit class struggle.

I enclose a donation which is in tribute to Larry Law. He was a great support to me when I needed help and comradeship, and I will miss him in times to come. His death was a loss to us all, let's carry on our work for him as well.

Timandra

CHEMICAL WEAPONS ACTION GROUP

Has produced a briefing pack called Make Britain CBW Free (priced £1.50) and is available from Box ZZ, 34 Cowley Road, Oxford. To join CWAG write to Colin Mills, Membership Secretary, 70 Chestnut Lane, Amersham, Bucks, HP6 6EH, Britain (£2 a year subscription includes newsletter).

Q & A on Anarchism

Q. Doesn't Anarchism arise from, have to do with, or shouldn't it be solely concerned with, peasants/peasant countries?

A. No. A peasant is not someone who just works on the land (though the confusion with anarchism in part arises because this is not understood) but the proprietor of a small piece of land who, though maybe working too as a farmer, depends on ownership, employing and exploiting others. In countries where big owners or governments force people off their little piece of land, landless peasants (which is to say ex-peasants) often turn to revolution and make common cause with the working class, or sometimes turn to reaction.

In these islands the peasants were wiped out more thoroughly than in Stalin's Russia, not by State decree but by private enterprise using such methods as the Scottish clearances or the Irish famine backed with troops. The peasant idea has now become romanticised and every smallholder retired from business (where they've picked up enough cash for it to keep them) likes to think they're going back to a peasant origin, associating it with white smocks and jolly millers or grassroots of sturdy Scottish crofters. This phenomenon is echoed politically in those parts of the 'Green' movement which use radical phrases to mask an essentially Tory-individualistic approach. As Marx insisted the Anarchists came from peasant or 'backward' countries it has become fixed Marxist dogma echoed by every Marxist Party, and so into bourgeois history; he was going by the composition of the sections in the First International, but these consisted of a few hundred people apiece and were hardly representative. Today Marxism rules or dominates the opposition throughout the so-called 'backward' countries and has wiped out the peasants where it is in power, hence sometimes there is a feeling that the peasants must have stood for independence; but it was the landless worker who always took the rural brunt of resistance both against capitalist expansion and the power of the State.

WOKING STRIKE SUPPORT GROUP

A Strike Support Group, for the P & O Strikers, has been set up in Woking. Anyone in that area interested in helping should contact Woking Strikers Support Group, c/o Woking Labour Party Offices, Owen House, Heathside Crescent, Woking GU22 7AG.

ANSWERS TO QUIZ

1. Mrs Edwina Currie's disappointed father, apparently as extreme in orthodox jewish views as she in political ones, recited it over her when she married and converted to christianity.

2. He said he was on the side of liberty and justice.

3. The Maquis, composed at first mostly of Spanish exiles, adopted the red-and black flag of the anarcho-syndicalist CNT, and after the war the rugby club in Toulouse took the same colours – which they still have.

4. During the war most left and anarchist groups stored arms, readily available, for the hoped-for revolution, but during the first police post-war amnesty for arms the RCP collected all they had and marched with them en bloc to hand in at Clapham police station.

5. In India and Northern Ireland, for instance, mourning; in the USA, rat poison.